and disease. The quiet of peace, however, has begun to make villagers uneasy. The latest crises: food security, or its shameless absence among the country's malnourished poor.

The problem is hardly new, only newly appreciated. Earlier this year, a joint survey published by UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) found that in Cambodia's poorest rural areas, nearly half the children under age five are physically stunted, while 20% suffer acute malnutrition.

According to a separate U.N. study published last December, Cambodia has the highest malnutrition rates in East Asia, with an average daily intake of only 1,980 calories, even lower than that of famine-stricken North Korea (2,390 calories). "Malnutrition in Cambodia is chronic," says the WFP's acting country director, Ken Noah Davies. "You could call this a silent emergency, or you could call this a national crisis."

The scope of the problem bares out that dire worrying is merited. Disease is acute in the countryside, even Cambodia's relatively affluent urban population suffers disturbingly high rates of malnutrition. The most recent report by the Ministry of Health reveals that in 1996, nearly 91% of children below the age of five in this upper-income group were moderately and severely stunted and 21%, severely stunted. The results suggest that not only income, but also socioeconomic factors may contribute to the underfeeding of children. For traditional cultural reasons—breastfeeding from birth is seen as taboo—Cambodian women are often reluctant to suckle their newborns immediately, waiting several days and thereby depriving them of highly nutritious colostrum, or first milk.

Much of the difficulty in feeding kids properly stems from the devastation wrought by the Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot's mad attempt at transforming the country into a vast agrarian commune destroyed its irrigation system, which had made Cambodia a net rice exporter in the past.

Since most farmers no longer hold formal title to their land—eliminated at the time of the trial of war criminals. Two decades have passed since the Khmer Rouge were run out of power, but Cambodians remain among the poorest people in the world. It is in their lack of education that you can see the damage that is already evident will plague Cambodia for years to come. "If you are malnourished for six months until you are five, you are going to be handicapped for the rest of your life," warns Davies. "You will never be able to develop your full mental or physical capacity." Perhaps now that warning can be heard.

POL POT'S LEGACIES—ILLITERACY AND MALNUTRITION—HAVE NOT YET FLOWED DEPOT TO THE GRAVE

WASHINGTON—U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, today detailed his impressions of humanitarian conditions in Cambodia and warned that problems of desperate poverty—massive destruction of schools, and widespread loss of land—were undermining the victory over those responsible for the death of nearly two million Cambodians. Excerpts of Hall's remarks follow.

"I visited Cambodia's capital and two rural provinces April 8-11 to get a firsthand look at the problems of poverty, and particularly the terrible malnutrition that has left Cambodians' rural villages populated by stunted people—and one in 10 wasted by hunger. "What I saw in Cambodia's rural villages reminded me of the time I spent in Thailand 32 years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer. People in Cambodia seem to be frozen in time, and you cannot escape the nagging feeling that Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge have won, that they took the people back in time and strangled them there.

"I was surprised to learn that in Cambodia, malnutrition is not the result of a lack of food. It is caused by the failure to teach mothers that they don't have to wait three days after giving birth to breastfeed the baby; that children should be fed more than just rice; that fish or fruit or vegetables won't make toddlers sick; and that without basic services, who are the sick do not get the good of proper nutrition and care.

"People need more traditional education too—four in five rural Cambodians can't read or write. We served meals of fish and other rich foods. Cambodian children are in school. That means they can't take advantage of their position at a crossroads of the regional economy. And education is only the beginning of Cambodia's problems."

"Without roads, it is impossible for rural people, who are 85% of the population, to get their products to market. Without irrigation, they can only raise enough to keep their families alive. With even a few more roads and water systems, Cambodia could feed itself and earn enough to fund some progress.

"Malaria, TB, dengue fever, and the growing rate of AIDS infections need to be fought more aggressively. It is amazing how many Cambodian children still die from measles and other easily prevented illnesses. Even the most basic things, such as iodizing salt to prevent mental retardation, are not being done.

"The country desperately needs economic growth. The government's plans to demobilize 55,000 soldiers and 23,000 police will put a lot of young men with guns into a society that is very fragile. Aid cannot create an economy, and I hope the government will not waste the money it now spends on the military on improving its people's opportunities.

"The country has a chance to find a way to its past and a place to find its way forward after 30 years of civil war. It is hard to imagine the trauma of the generation that endured the 'killing fields,' or their children—who now are raising children of their own. One aid worker told me that the pictures children draw almost always feature guns or weapons—causing violence and war are so familiar to them.

"For peace to last, it will take more than the trial of war criminals. Two decades have passed since the Khmer Rouge were run out of power, but Cambodians remain among the poorest people in the world. It is in their lack of education that you can see the damage that is already evident, and will continue to plague Cambodia for years to come. "If you are malnourished for six months until you are five, you are going to be handicapped for the rest of your life," warns Davies. "You will never be able to develop your full mental or physical capacity." Perhaps now that warning can be heard.

"We have an opportunity today that has not existed in three decades, a chance to introduce Cambodians to the fruits of peace. The international community should make the most of this chance by investing in Cambodians' education and their health. The United States should lead the way."

INTRODUCTION OF HOME HEALTH ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. VAN HILLREY
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999
Mr. HILLREY. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) made many changes to
Medicare and the home health industry. These changes decimated the system and have left behind them a long list of closed home health agencies and patients without care. In response, many of us in Congress desperately sought a solution. Unfortunately, we were unable to come up with one true vehicle that could pass into law.

This year we come back again. Our efforts will be just as aggressive but a little wiser. Instead of competing against one another, we in Congress will now work together to fix the problem. That is why I have joined with Congressmen MCGOVERN, COBURN, and WEGYAND to craft legislation that will help our seniors in need. Joined by Congressmen RAHALL, MCINTOSH, HOOLEY, WAMP, BARTON, and ACKERMAN, we plan to push forward legislation that aims to help the neediest of home health beneficiaries and agencies.

The first patients that will receive the aid are those that are considered "outliers." Outliers are patients who have unusually high cost maladies. Under the BBA system, many agencies are unable to give them care at the risk of being run out of business because they are so cost prohibitive. We create a system that sets aside 10 specific ailments that would make a person eligible to receive this outlier status. Once they are identified as an outlier, agencies who take these individuals could draw from a newly established $250,000,000 Medicare fund to cover the added expenses. This will mean more of our poorest, oldest, and sickest receiving the medical coverage they so desperately need.

Another benefit of this legislation will be the establishment of a repayment plan for agencies who have been treating these individuals. Many of them are now almost out of business due to their charity and the inaccuracies of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in assessing their plight. We offer an interest-free 36-month grace period to these agencies in order to repay these overpayments and settle any miscalculations on behalf of HCFA.

I urge all Americans who see the need for a reform in home health to back this legislation. The Home Health Access Preservation Act of 1999 is a common sense way to help our seniors in their time of need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIMINAL WELFARE PREVENTION ACT, PART II AND THE CRIMINAL WELFARE PREVENTION ACT, PART III

HON. WALLY HERGER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with a bipartisan coalition of original cosponsors to re-introduce two important pieces of legislation—The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II and The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part III—which will help prevent the needless waste of taxpayer dollars.

Because of the original Criminal Welfare Prevention Act—legislation I introduced during the 104th Congress which was enacted as part of welfare reform in 1996—an effective new incentive system is now in place that enables the Social Security Administration (SSA) to detect and cut off fraudulent Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security (OASDI) benefits that would otherwise be issued to prisoners. That provision established monetary incentives for state and local law enforcement authorities to enter into voluntary data-sharing contracts with SSA. Now, participating local authorities can elect to provide the Social Security numbers of their inmates to the Social Security Administration. If SSA identifies any “matches”—instances where inmates are fraudulently collecting SSI benefits—SSA now cuts off payment of as much as $400. Participation in these data-sharing contracts is strictly voluntary; they do not involve any unfunded federal mandates. According to an estimate by SSA’s Inspector General, this initiative could help save taxpayers as much as $3.46 billion through the year 2001.

While we are proud of this achievement Mr. Speaker, our work in this area is far from finished. During the 105th Congress, the House passed by follow-up legislation, The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II (H.R. 530), as part of The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Act (H.R. 3433). This proposal would encourage even more sheriffs to become involved in fraud-prevention by extending the $400 incentive payments to intercepted Social Security (OASDI) checks as well. Regrettably, this proposal was not taken up by the Senate. For this reason, I am re-introducing The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II today, and will continue to push for the enactment of this important initiative.

At the same time, I will also be working to enact a somewhat broader proposal. The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part III, which I first introduced during the 105th Congress as H.R. 4172. This legislation would simply require SSA to share its prisoner database with other federal departments and agencies—such as the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Labor, and Veterans’ Affairs—to pay some of the cost of other fraudulent benefits to prisoners. While we do not have reliable information about how many prisoners are receiving food stamps, education aid, and VA benefits for which they are ineligible, it is likely that many do. SSA’s prisoner database provides us with the perfect tool to help identify and terminate inappropriate benefits issued through other federal and federally-assisted spending programs.

While SSA already has the authority to share its prisoner database with other agencies under a provision of the original Criminal Welfare Prevention Act—and while President Clinton has issued an executive memorandum ordering the SSA to do so—I believe it is important for Congress to codify this requirement into law. Because fraud prevention has not historically been a top priority at SSA, Congress should act swiftly to ensure that we permanently stamp out inmate fraud in all its forms. After all, taxpayers already pay for inmates’ food, clothing, and shelter. It is simply outrageous that prisoners may be receiving fraudulent “bonus” checks each month as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to co-sponsor both of these important pieces of legislation. I hope that Congress will not promptly on these proposals to help remind inmates that crime isn’t supposed to pay.

THE MAILBOX PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.J. Res. 55, the Mailbox Privacy Protection Act, a joint resolution disapproving a Postal Service Regulation which tramples on the privacy of the two million Americans who rent mailboxes from Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies. Under this regulation, any American currently renting, or planning to rent, a commercial mailbox will have to provide the receiving agency with personal information, including two items of valid identification, one of which must contain a photograph of the applicant and one of which must contain a "serial number—traceable to the bearer." Of course, in most cases that number will be today’s de facto national ID number—the Social Security number.

The receiving agency must then send the information to the Post Office, which will maintain the information in a database. Furthermore, the Post Office authorizes the Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies to collect and maintain photocopies of the forms of identification presented by the box renter. My colleagues might be interested to know that the Post Office is prohibited from doing this by the Privacy Act of 1974. I hope my colleagues are as outraged as I am by the Post Office’s mandating that their competitors do what Congress has forbidden the Post Office to do directly.

Thanks to the Post Office’s Federal Government-granted monopoly on first-class delivery service, Americans cannot receive mail without dealing with the Postal Service. Therefore, this regulation presents Americans who wish to receive mail at a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency with a choice: either provide the federal government with your name, address, photograph and social security number, or surrender the right to receive communications from one’s fellow citizens in one’s preferred manner.

This regulation, ironically, was issued at the same time the Post Office was issuing a stamp honoring Ayn Rand, one of the twentieth century’s greatest champions of liberty. Another irony connected to this regulation is that it comes at a time when the Post Office is getting into an ever increasing number of enterprises not directly related to mail delivery. So, while the Postal Service uses its monopoly on first-class mail to compete with the private sector, it works to make life more difficult for its competitors in the field of mail delivery.

This regulation also provides the Post Office with a list of all those consumers who have opted out of the Post Office’s mailbox service. Mr. Speaker, what business in America would not leap at the chance to get a list of their competitor’s customer names, addresses, social security numbers, and photographs? The Post Office could even mail advertisements to